CLAIMS

1. A multi-database query system which queries a plurality of databases and servers, comprising:

an input which receives queries in a structured form; and

a translation server which translates at least a part of a received query into commands recognized by a data manipulation server.

2. A system according to claim 1, comprising a processor which parses the received query into parts according to the databases and servers to which they relate.

3. A system according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the structured form comprises a form used to query databases.

4. A system according to any of claims 1-3, wherein the input receives a query which relates to at least one database and at least one data manipulation server.

5. A system according to any of claims 1-4, wherein the translation server models results from the data manipulation server into database objects.

6. A system according to any of claims 1-5, wherein the data manipulation server comprises a server which receives input from a least two different sources.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein the data manipulation server comprises a homology comparison engine.

8. A method of accessing a data manipulation server from a multi-database query system, comprising:

providing the query system with a query which includes a first directive assigning a value to at least one field of an input object associated with the data manipulation server and a second directive which determines a value of at least one field of an output object associated with the data manipulation server; and

invoking the data manipulation server responsive to the second directive.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein providing the query comprises preparing the query using a graphical interface designed for querying structured databases.

10. A system according to claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the data manipulation server comprises a homology engine.

11. A method of performing a database search using a multi-database query system, comprising:

providing the query system with a query which includes at least one directive related to a database and at least one directive related to a data manipulation server, wherein the directives are stated in an identical structural format;

translating the directives into commands recognized by the database and the data manipulation server; and

submitting the commands respectively to the data manipulation server and to the database.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the data manipulation server comprises a homology comparison engine.

13. A method according to claim 11 or claim 12, wherein translating the directives comprises identifying, by a query processor, the directives directed to the database and the directives directed to the data manipulation server.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein translating the directives comprises passing the directives to translation servers associated with the database or data manipulation server to which the directives are directed.

15. A method according to claim 13 or claim 14, comprising determining an order for the directives to be processed in and submitting the translated directives to the data manipulation server and to the database according to the determined order.

16. A method according to claim 11, comprising receiving results from said submission and translating the results into structured objects.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein translating the results into structured objects comprises translating the results to structured objects related to the directives.

18. A method according to any of claims 11-17, wherein providing a query comprises providing a query in an Object Protocol Model (OPM)-like language.